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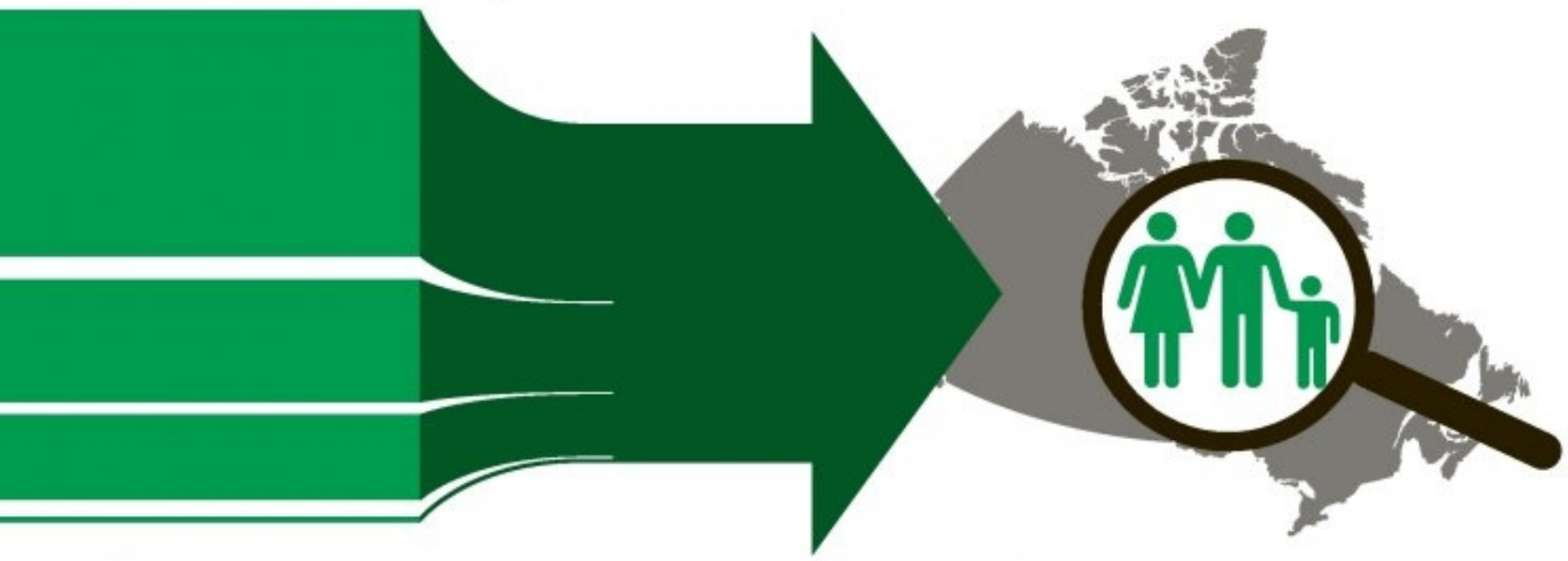


THE NEW CANADA

SHIFT IN FOCUS

Liberals' immigration plan emphasizes reuniting families

metroNEWS

Setting High Park on fire to spur tree growth

URBAN FORESTRY

Black oak needs heat from burn to germinate seed

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

High Park will be on fire this spring.

But don't fret. It's for a perfectly healthy reason.

The city's urban forestry department is preparing for a controlled burn aimed at helping a rare breed of black oak trees grow better.

High Park is home to hundreds of oak trees that get along just fine on their own. But a small percentage of black oak savannas found in the park's natural areas are part of a fire-dependent ecosystem, said parks program officer Lisa McLean.

"We call it a fire-adapted species," she said, explaining the acorn from the black oak tree needs heat from fire to germinate the seed.

In the same way, full-grown black oaks need the extreme heat that only a fire can produce to grow stronger.

"They all adapt in this particular fire regime," McLean said.

Black oak trees have been in High Park for many years, but the city didn't start the controlled burns until around 2000.

Burns are organized every couple of years as arborists see the need arise. The fires are low to the ground, eating away at dried leaves, small twigs and grass stems without harming larger trees.

The city will set a combined 4.6 hectares of the park on fire this spring.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Urban forestry will let people who live in the area know exactly when the fires will be set. They're monitoring weather conditions with the goal of moving ahead in late March or early April.

While the park won't be closed for the exercise, the city is asking that people steer clear on the day of the burn.

WHERE

- In an area along Spring Road just east of the park entrance at High Park Avenue and Bloor Street W.
- In two areas along West Road, one just west and just south of the sports complex.

People should at least, McLean said, stay away from the areas directly involved.

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Rise of emojis influencing language, law in a virtual world. **Business**

RECREATION

City pulls programs from school pools

The future of three school pools is under threat after the city notified the Toronto public board that it is no longer interested in running programs at Brown, Bendale and Wilfrid Laurier.

Trustee Shelley Laskin put forward a motion, which passed, at Tuesday's budget committee after the board found out about the move, arguing the city hasn't given enough notice, as required.

The city and board have an agreement that runs through to 2017 for the city to fund 33 pools, with the city covering all operating costs. The pools are used by schools during the day and open to the wider community after hours and throughout the summer.

Laskin's motion says "notice must occur on January 1st for any change in the number of pools to commence September 1st … (and) no notice was given … to the affected communities" either through city budget consultations or through the board-city committee.

She is asking that board Director John Malloy "formally request the City continue the operations of the pools at Brown Junior Public School, Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute and Bendale Business and Technical Institute for the 2016-17 school year as the terms of the agreement were not met."

The board estimates the loss of funding for the three pools to be $530,000.

The province does not provide school boards with any money for pools, and, in order to save them, a deal was first struck with the city back in 2003.

Toni Wharton, in an email: Part of the problem is that they gave no one notice about this. The first we heard was Saturday morning.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

BORDER SERVICES

Immigration detainee dies in Toronto centre

The Canada Border Services Agency is investigating the circumstances of the death of an immigration detainee at the Toronto East Detention Centre.

In a statement Tuesday, the CBSA confirmed the detainee died on Monday, but gave no other details including the identity of the detainee or the country of origin.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

26 Park Circle Lane, the exclusive home of Conrad Black, was valued at just under $22 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Black's home under hammer in secret

PROPERTY

$21.8M Bridle Path mansion hits market in private auction

Former press baron Conrad Black put his sprawling Toronto home under the hammer in a top-secret auction on Tuesday night.

The 23,000-square-foot mansion in the exclusive Bridle Path enclave had an estimated value of $21.8 million and was being sold by New York-based Concierge Auctions in conjunction with real estate agent Barry Cohen from Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc.

Beyond that, little is known. The location of the auction on Tuesday evening remained secret and a spokesperson for Concierge said results of the auction would not immediately be made public.

Cameron Thomas, manager of estate contents with Ritchies Auctioneers, said three types of homeowners tend to use auctions to sell off their sought-after real estate.

"They're clients whose property has been on the market for a long time or they're in a money situation or are moving out of the country and need to sell it quickly," he said.

In order to ensure the auctions run smoothly, Thomas described a number of checks that ensure bidders are "pre-qualified."

"You really want to eliminate the tire kickers who come in," he said. With Concierge that means filling out a bidder registration form, providing a bank letter that confirms buyers are capable of purchasing the property and depositing $250,000 in escrow.

Bidders were able to participate in the Black auction by proxy, phone and via the Internet. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Immigration focus shifts

NEWCOMERS

Good news for Toronto man and the wife he's missing

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The federal government's plan to increase the number of family-reunification cases processed through immigration is some of the only good news Patrick Isingizwe has heard in a long time.

The 28-year-old Toronto man has been impatiently waiting to be reunited with his wife for the past two years since applying to bring her to Canada after their marriage in Rwanda.

"It's been a nightmare," he said about waiting. "I'm paying over $200 in phone bills every month because I literally have to live on the phone to stay in touch with my wife."

Overall, the Liberals are seeking a record number of newcomers this year, Immigration Minister John McCallum announced Tuesday. Between 280,000 and 305,000 new permanent residents are expected to be admitted, a range that's the highest projected level in decades.

Along with reuniting families, the government will also place an emphasis on refugees.

Patrick Isingizwe and his wife, Beatrice, on their wedding day in 2014. The couple has lived apart since then. CONTRIBUTED

In addition to the 25,000 Syrians the government has committed to resettling, it is prepared to triple the number of privately sponsored refugees this year, setting aside up to 18,000 spaces for them. In previous years, the number hovered around 6,000.

Increasing the targets is a welcome development, but conditions remain difficult for many low-income applicants, said Syed Hussan of No One Is Illegal, a Toronto-based refugee and immigrant advocacy group.

"You still have to be rich to be able to apply and sponsor your family," he said, referring to application costs. "This is a target, and they haven't always met their targets."

But, he said: "It's still a far cry from undoing the Harper era damage."

For now, Isingizwe continues to spend his downtime rewatching videos of his wedding and going through pictures.

He hopes the government's new commitment will yield a positive response the next time he calls the visa office to check the status of his application.

"Every time I call, they just tell me it's in the process," he said. "Something really must change because right now the wait is too long and too painful."

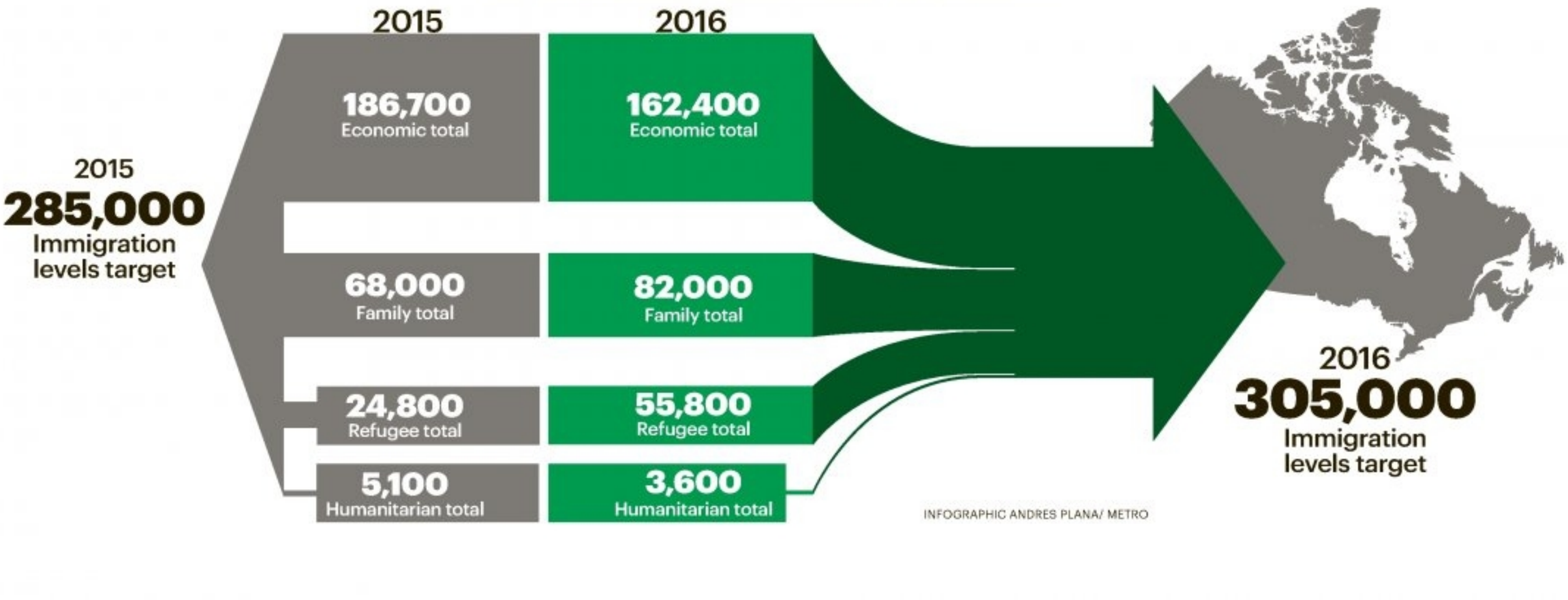
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **Something really must change ... the wait is too long and too painful.**
> Patrick Isingizwe

Patrick Isingizwe immigrated to Canada from Rwanda in 2008. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

New target reduces intake of skilled workers

As the Liberals' immigration plan for 2016 places more of an emphasis on refugees and families, targets have been lowered in other areas that were a focus under the Conservative government. METRO



INFOGRAPHIC ANDRES PLANA/ METRO

Dress codes risk rights breach

GENDER ISSUES

Report targets revealing outfits for women

Is cleavage a legitimate job requirement?

The new boss of Ontario's Human Rights Commission is reminding employers that requiring women to wear low-cut tops and short skirts, tight dresses or high heels could violate the human rights code.

Such dress codes are "all too common in some restaurants and bars," commissioner Renu Mandhane warned Tuesday, marking International Women's Day and the unanimous passage in the legislature of law-bolstering protections against workplace sexual harassment and violence.

The commission issued a policy paper on gender-specific dress codes to encourage women to "speak up" or file complaints if they face different rules than men.

"Excellent customer service doesn't have a cup size," said Kathy Laird, executive director of the Human Rights Legal Support Centre.

All employees should be free to decide what they wear to work as long as it complies with reasonable dress codes or requirements for staff uniforms, she said.

Renu Mandhane is the new chief commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. The commission's report took aim at employers who mandate women to wear revealing uniforms for work, adding such a policy could violate the human rights code. JIM RANKIN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> Excellent customer service doesn't have a cup size.
> Kathy Laird

"It's all about choice," Laird added, noting too many women are subjected to unwanted advances or worse from bosses, co-workers and customers as a result of discriminatory dress codes.

In the wake of the policy paper, Earls Restaurants — known for their Earls Girls — will now change its dress code to give female servers the option of wearing straight cut plain black pants instead of skirts.

"We were unaware we were in contravention of the Ontario Human Rights Code until this morning," Earls spokeswoman Cate Simpson wrote in an emailed statement.

Women's Issues Minister Tracy MacCharles told reporters at Queen's Park that she hopes women troubled by dress codes will raise concerns with their bosses.

"If we need to look at it, we'll look at it ... women have complaint options if that's the route they need to go."

New Democrat Leader Andrea Horwath urged the government to crack down.

"The government needs to take some leadership in terms of setting standards about what people can and cannot be asked to do as part of their employment," she said.

Progressive Conservative MPP Laurie Scott said employers should "revisit" their dress codes so that they apply equally to women and men.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PICKERING

Teenager faces two more charges

A teenager accused of slashing five students and two teachers at Dunbarton High School in Pickering last month is facing two more charges of assault with a weapon.

Durham Regional Police said the new charges were the result of new information brought forward to police.

They were added at the suspect's bail hearing on Tuesday morning.

The 14-year-old female student, who cannot be named under a provision of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, now faces 17 charges: one count of assault, six counts of assault causing bodily harm, nine counts of assault with a weapon, and possession of dangerous weapons.

She was arrested after students and staff members were attacked by a knife-wielding assailant at the Pickering high school before classes began on the morning of Feb. 23.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Get ready for 12 storeys of art

PUBLIC SPACES

British street artist Phlegm to create giant mural

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A 12-storey building at Yonge and St. Clair will soon be covered in Phlegm — thanks to a company that's coughing up most of the dough to pay for it.

The Sustainable Thinking and Expression on Public Space (STEPS) initiative is partnering with the U.K.-based street artist known as Phlegm for a massive mural on the west side of 1 St. Clair W.

It's a "unique space" that's just yearning for something special, said Alexis Kane-Speer, founding director of STEPS, a group that collaborates on large-scale community artwork in the city.

"It doesn't have any windows, which makes it a great canvas," Kane-Speer said about the building's facade. "And it's so visible because there are no buildings blocking sightlines to the west."

The building is owned by Slate Asset Management, which was looking to make some public realm improvements in the area around Yonge and St. Clair where it owns property, said Kane-Speer.

Toronto city staff recommended the company reach out to STEPS, and the partnership was born.

STEPS contacted Phlegm because he's one of a small number of artists seen as being up to the task of beautifying the tall, blank wall, said Kane-Speer. It's a challenging space because it's directly attached to a shorter building, meaning the artists will rappel from the roof and use swing stages in order to paint it.

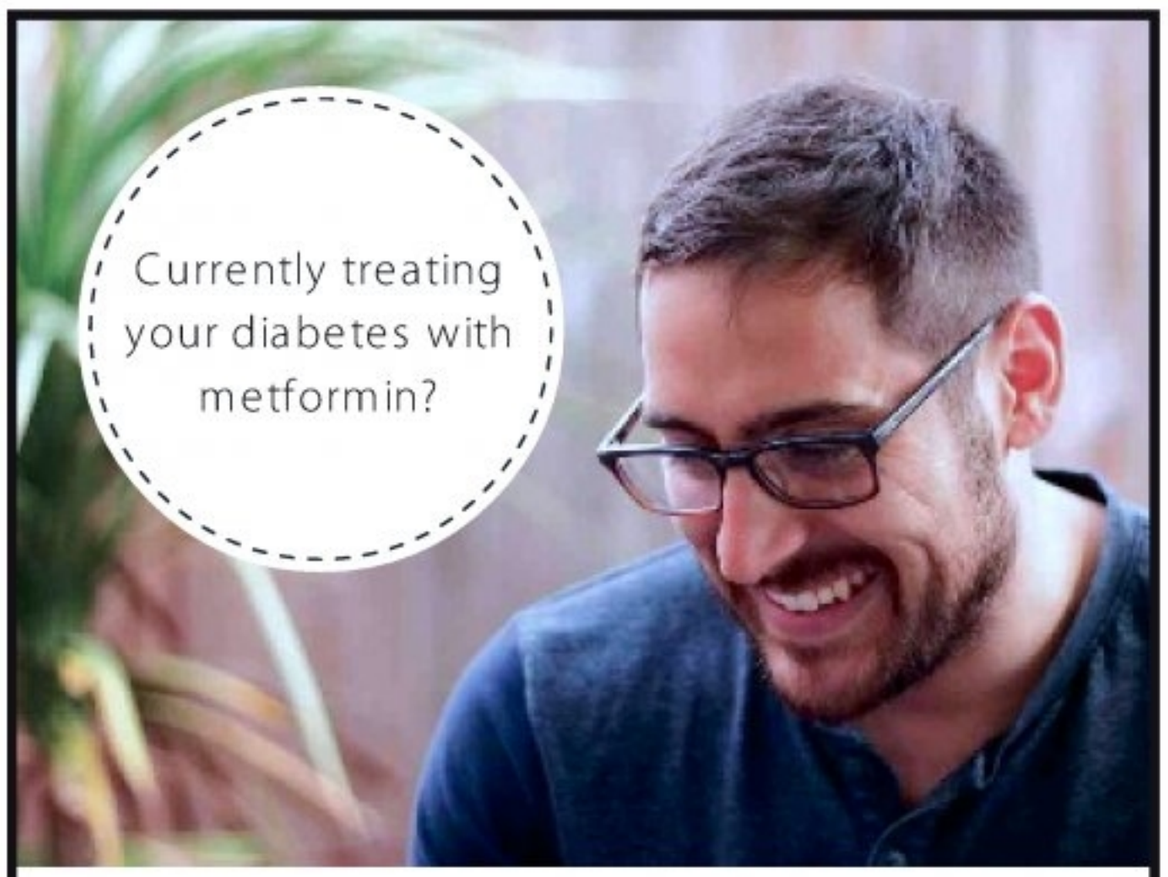
"His work is pretty iconic, it's known for having fantastical themes where he has mythological creations and strange contraptions," she said. "It leaves the viewer asking questions."

The work is set to begin this summer and will be primarily funded by Slate Asset Management.

HAVE YOUR SAY

STEPS is soliciting feedback on what should be painted on the building at 1 St. Clair W. For more information, visit stepsinitiative.com/projects/stclair.

Phlegm is known for painting public realm projects with "mythological creations" and "strange contraptions" in cities around the world. These examples can be found in Denmark, above, and in Herne Hill in London, right. INSTAGRAM/@PHLEGM_ART



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CRIME

Woman faces 14 theft charges

Toronto police have charged a woman they say stole jewelry from older and disabled people over several months.

Police said the woman would drive around with a man and stop people to ask them for help.

It's alleged she would then engage them in conversation and offer to give them jewelry she had on her.

Police said that as she put the jewelry on her target, she would remove the jewelry that person was wearing.

Mihaela Miclescu, 35, of Toronto, was arrested Saturday and charged with 14 counts of theft under $5,000.

Toronto police said the thefts began in August of last year.

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IMMIGRATION

Broken system for rec sign-up even worse for newcomers

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Making it easier for all families to register for recreation has become a priority for Mayor John Tory. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

The city must keep newcomer families in mind as it overhauls the online system used to register for recreation programs, advocates say.

The call comes as Mayor John Tory forms a Recreation Technology Advisory Group tasked with improving the much-loathed system and fully replacing it by the end of 2017. It's on the heels of a report from Social Planning Toronto that found the "unmanageable" system is one of the barriers keeping immigrant kids from participating.

Recreation programs are a wonderful way for newcomer children and their families to integrate, learn English and make friends, said Ratna Omidvar, chair of Lifeline Syria.

"When kids play together, they understand each other better, and their parents watch on the sidelines together," she said.

Omidvar has a special interest because on Sunday she tried — and failed — to register children from the family she's sponsored in city recreation programs.

Omidvar teamed up with three other sponsors to be online 10 minutes before registration opened at 7 a.m.

"We thought we had organized ourselves really well," Omidvar said. "We kept trying and trying to get into the system … at 7:15 we got in, but all the spots were taken."

The system was tough enough for Omidvar and her group to navigate, she said. It would be nearly impossible for newcomers who have difficulties with language or technology, she said.

RESPONSE

Howie Dayton, director of community recreation, said the city will ensure the new program will be simpler for everyone to use. He added that Omidvar was trying to register at a centre with extremely high demand.

Trudeau grows U.S. bond

BILATERAL TALKS

Prime Minister in Washington to strengthen ties with Obama

The White House says a special relationship is developing with Canada's new prime minister — a bond that will be reinforced this week with a series of bilateral agreements, champagne toasts, and a rare black-tie dinner.

Justin Trudeau arrives Wednesday for a three-day visit to the U.S. capital — a place where he's unusually well-known for a Canadian politician — with the first prime ministerial state dinner in 19 years as its centrepiece.

An administration official described a unique alignment of priorities between President Barack Obama and the prime minister, who will be hosted by the White House, the State Department, American University and a gathering of think-tanks.

"I think there is a developing special relationship between this president and prime minister," Mark Feierstein said.

"They're both young leaders with similar visions, both have a progressive vision, both very much committed to appropriate use of multilateral tools, both committed to diversity.

"I think there's a coincidence in terms of the agendas that both administrations have. I think we're seeing that reflected for example on the issues of climate change and refugees."

But the prime minister arrives with an advantage rarely available to his recent predecessors: The ability to influence a conversation in the United States.

He's riding a wave of glam-mag coverage and glowing profiles, the latest on "60 Minutes." His status as a progressive celebrity was illustrated at a White House briefing this week.

An Obama spokesman was asked whether the president would also participate in a gay-pride parade — and follow the example of the leader next door.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and U.S. President Barack Obama have already developed a close understanding on many key policy issues. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Federal budget unlikely to increase military spending

The upcoming federal budget is not expected to commit to a broad increase in military spending, say several defence sources.

In fact, newly tabled fiscal planning documents suggest overall spending on the military could to shrink by almost $400 million in the coming year.

During the election campaign, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised to maintain the former Conservative government's defence spending levels and increase funding in 2017.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

High levels of lead found in water at B.C. legislature

The water in an office in the British Columbia legislature contains more than five times the safe limit of lead, one MLA says. Delta South MLA Vicki Huntington's office water was tested and found to have contained 55.4 micrograms per litre of lead. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Canadian woman to appear on bank note

CURRENCY

Nominations declared open by feds for 2018 unveiling

When the next series of Canadian bank notes rolls off the presses in 2018, one of them will, for the first time ever, bear the portrait of a woman other than the Queen — and nominations are open now.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Finance Minister Bill Morneau marked International Women's Day on Tuesday by launching the search for a new face for the currency.

"I am pleased to announce today, right here, that a Canadian woman will be featured on the very first of the next series of bills expected in 2018," Trudeau told a news conference marking the occasion.

Hazel McCallion, the firebrand political legend who served for 36 years as mayor of Mississauga, Ont., was on hand for the announcement.

In Winnipeg, a new $1 circulation coin was unveiled Tuesday to celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Canada. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

"Finally, the Bank of Canada and the government has recognized it is time for a woman to be on," McCallion said. "I've been helping the organization to do it."

The bank is asking the public to nominate women deserving of the recognition, provided they meet the criteria. Submissions can be made on the bank's website between now and April 15.

The nominee must be a Canadian woman who demonstrated outstanding leadership, achievement or distinction in any field, benefiting the people of Canada, or in the service of Canada.

Anne of Green Gables is out, because no fictional characters are allowed. And nominees must have been dead for at least 25 years.

An independent advisory council of eminent academic, cultural and thought leaders will review the submissions and, after talking to experts and more consultation with the public, will provide a short list of candidates to the finance minister.

"I'd invite all Canadians, male and female, to have their say," Morneau said.

The bank note announcement came as the Royal Canadian Mint unveiled a new $1 coin commemorating the 100 years since women first gained the right to vote in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta provincial elections. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Fish with 'evil eyes' intrigues, disgusts

For a brief moment, Nova Scotia fisherman Scott Tanner thought he might have a case of cabin fever when he spotted a fish with glowing, green eyes in his trawler's net.

The 23-year-old Lunenburg man was about a month into a 40-day commercial fishing trip for cod and redfish off Newfoundland and Labrador's Grand Banks when the mysterious creature turned up, shocking even veteran fishermen on board.

"It stood out right away with the green eyes," said Tanner, who snapped photos of the dead fish and posted them on Facebook. "Everybody was pretty amazed by it. The older guys, even, said they'd never seen one before."

A Nova Scotia Fisherman caught a fish with glowing, green eyes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

With its luminous peepers, long tail, sword-like nose and fins resembling wings, the fish netted last month has caught both the intrigue and disgust of the Internet.

"What the hell is this?" blared a headline on the Daily Star, a U.K. tabloid that described the catch as a "winged fish with evil eyes" and "a nose like a wizard's hat."

Someone else said the creature looked like something that was fished "straight out of my nightmares."

Andrew Hebda, curator of zoology at the Museum of Natural History in Halifax, offered a more scientific-based explanation: the bug-eyed creature appears to be a knifenose chimera — one of three chimera species in North Atlantic waters.

"It's a kind of neat-looking thing," he said. "The eyes are quite striking."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Clean sweep in Mississippi

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

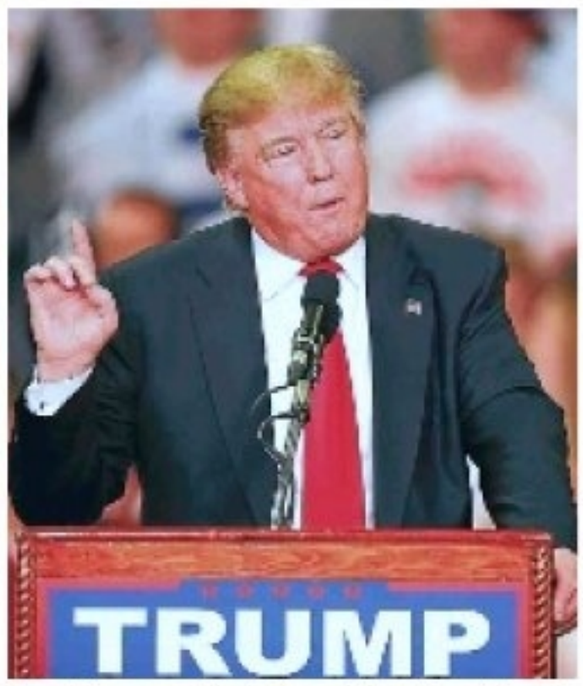
Clinton, Trump maintain leads in southern state primaries

Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump swept to victory Tuesday in Mississippi's presidential primaries, continuing their dominance in the southern states.

Clinton and Trump hoped Tuesday's contests would pad their delegate leads and move them closer toward a general election faceoff. Democrat Bernie Sanders sought to slow Clinton in Michigan, the night's biggest prize, while a trio of Republican candidates desperately tried to block Trump's path to the nomination.

Trump has faced a barrage of criticism from rival candidates and outside groups who fear he would deeply damage Republicans' chances of winning in November. His recent losses to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz have raised questions about his durability and given fresh hope to other competitors.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks during a rally in Detroit, Mich., on Monday. CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump campaigns in Madison, Miss., on Monday. BRYNN ANDERSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio Gov. John Kasich campaigned furiously in Michigan in recent days. He's yet to win a primary but hoped a good showing in Michigan would give him a boost heading into next week's crucial contest in his home state.

Speaking to a crowd in Lansing, Kasich said a strong showing in Michigan would show the country "that it's a new day in this presidential campaign."

To that end, Kasich and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio were using recorded phone calls from Mitt Romney to appeal to voters as they headed to the polls. Romney, the 2012 Republican standard-bearer, has not endorsed a candidate but has vowed to help challengers to Trump, whom he says would be dangerous for the country.

Republicans were also holding contests Tuesday in Hawaii and Idaho. Republican candidates were fighting for 150 delegates, while 179 Democratic delegates were at stake in the party's two primaries. The delegates will select each party's presidential nominee at national conventions in July.

The economy ranked high on the list of concerns for voters heading to the polls in Michigan and Mississippi.

At least eight in 10 voters in each party's primary said they were worried about where the American economy is heading, according to early exit polls conducted for The Associated Press and television networks.

Among Democrats, eight in 10 voters in both states said the country's economic system benefits the wealthy, not all Americans.

Sanders has sought to tap into that concern, energizing young people and white working-class voters with his calls for breaking up Wall Street banks and making tuition free at public colleges and universities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFUGEE CRISIS

Greek border closed

Despair and confusion spread through the camp at the Greek-Macedonian border Tuesday as thousands of stranded refugees were forced to acknowledge that the route through Europe that had carried their hopes and dreams was now shut.

The dozens of people crammed together at the front of the line to the border crossing looked at the closed gate. Refugees asked reporters what had happened in Brussels, and asked what they could or should do next. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Syrian woman holds a baby in a refugee centre. BORIS GRDANOSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Emojis getting some respect

After years of being dismissed as a quirky smartphone feature used mostly by teenagers, the famous international registry of smiley faces, animals and other objects has reached a higher level of status.
ISTOCK

COMMUNICATION

High point when an emoji was picked as word of year

If emojis could express their meteoric rise into the lexicon of virtual language, it might start with a surprised face, followed by thumbs up, and a trophy. After years of ridicule in popular culture, the famous international registry of smiley faces, animals and numerous other objects is finally getting some respect.

"In many ways, communicating informally with each other on the Internet, with just words, is like trying to talk in a monotone with your hands behind your back," says Gretchen McCulloch, a Montreal-based linguist who has studied the rise of emojis and how people use them to enhance communication.

Created in the late 1990s by Japanese mobile phone carriers as a marketing hook, emojis never really landed on the radar of North Americans until Apple's iPhone and Android smartphones incorporated the cartoon characters in 2010.

Last year marked a clear zeitgeist moment. The prestigious Oxford Dictionaries chose the "face with tears of joy" emoji as word of the year, leading to an uproar in linguistic circles.

It was an undeniable sign that emojis had reached a higher level of status after years of being widely dismissed as a quirky smartphone feature used mostly by teenagers.

Celebrities and brands have hopped on the emoji bandwagon, including Kim Kardashian — who launched her own "Kimoji" app with cartoon renderings of herself — and Tim Hortons which released its own batch of "Eh-mojis" .

Emojis have also posed a major challenge under the law. A New York grand jury was recently asked to decide whether the combination of an emoji police officer and an emoji gun was considered a threat to police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

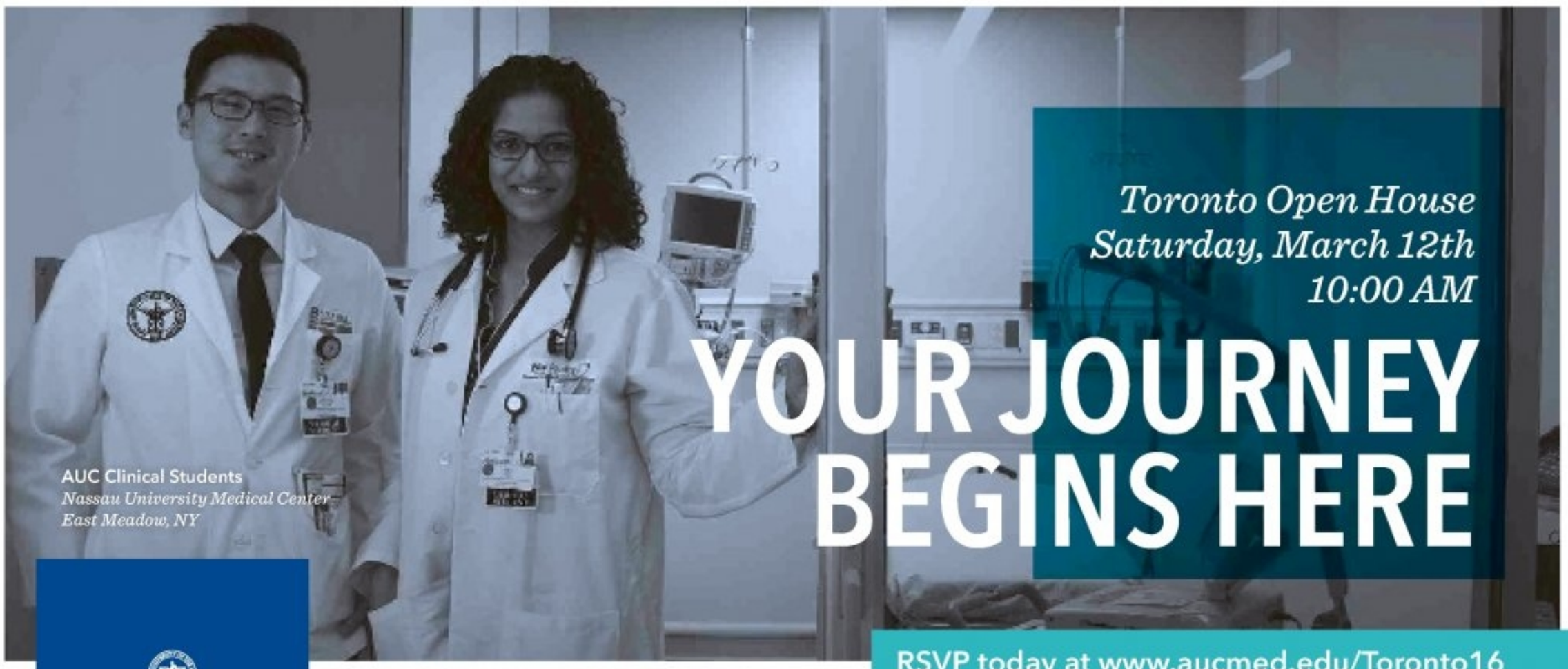
Biofuels face headwinds
Low oil prices, end of a biofuels incentive program, competition from U.S. imports, lack of infrastructure, and stricter fuel efficiency regulations are expected to lead to a 38 per cent plunge in Canada's biofuels production, predicts the International Energy Agency. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Danier sell-off begins
Store closing sales start Tuesday at the remaining Danier Leather stores and outlets in Canada.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 74.54¢ (–0.78¢)
TSX 13,311.05 (–72.55)
OIL $36.50 US (–$1.40)
GOLD $1,262.90 US (–$1.10)

NATURAL GAS: $1.712 US (+2.2¢)
DOW JONES: 16,964.10 (–109.85)



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metro VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

DARN GOOD NEWS
People who swear a lot tend to be seen as more persuasive and easier to relate to.

URBAN ETIQUETTE **ELLEN VANSTONE**

THE QUESTION

I took credit for someone else's donation to my boss's charity run — but she was pressuring all of us to give. She does it every year. Was I wrong?

Dear Ellen,

Every year, when the time comes for her charity run, my manager starts dropping hints and directs us to the website with her donor page. I give lots to charity, and feel we shouldn't be asked to support her causes. Anyway, this year, she and I had a one-on-one meeting where she said, with a sigh, that she was way behind in her fundraising but that "of course, that's not your problem." There was an awkward pause, which I stupidly filled by saying I'd donate. I was mad at myself, but meant to do it — until an hour later when she sent me an email telling me how much she appreciated my donation. Apparently, as I stewed at my desk, someone else had donated anonymously. I was ticked off enough that I replied "No problem! Good luck!" Was I wrong?

Feeling Extorted, Toronto

Dear F.E.,

Strictly speaking, I cannot condone your lying about having made a donation to your boss's charity. Nor do good manners permit taking credit for another person's generosity.

But I can certainly understand your motivation.

Though it doesn't excuse your behaviour, the fact is your boss's behaviour is equally inexcusable. Her practice of "dropping hints" about her charity while directing you to her website has all the subtlety of a brickbat aimed straight at your next performance review. It's OK to ask friends, relatives and strangers for support, but it's not OK in the context of a power relationship like the one she has with you; i.e., when people don't feel free to say no.

It's okay to ask friends, relatives and strangers for support, but not in a context when people don't feel free to say no.

By the way, it's commendable that you already "give lots to charity," but it's irrelevant as to whether you should give to hers. We all have our own pet causes, and how we choose to spend our disposable income is nobody else's business.

Of course, it's not always cut and dried. Theoretically, I stick to my own chosen charities and feel justified in waving off solicitors for other organizations. But I also set aside a certain amount for causes I don't much care about, because I like or care about the people who are begging on their behalf.

(As tax season looms, note that tax credits are available for registered charities, which never hurts.)

For Feeling Extorted and other oppressed workers at the mercy of exploitative managers, however, the choices are limited.

You can smile through gritted teeth and donate, and try not to waste too much time wallowing in fuming resentment, which is very bad for your health.

You can ignore the boss's "hints" and not donate, then try not to waste too much time worrying about whether she'll hold it against you, which would be very bad for your career.

Or, if you simply refuse to brook a double-bind, you can heed the advice of Frank Underwood from House of Cards: "If you don't like how the table is set, flip over the table." In other words, sign up for your own charity run, so that you can tell your boss — truthfully — that you'd love to donate to her run, and that you sincerely hope she'll donate to yours!

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Americans love Trudeau, and we still really, really care

Always the wooer, never the wooed. Canada, I mean, when it comes to the U.S.

All week, Canadian media, swooning over Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's rare (steak?) state dinner at the White House on Thursday, have noted what a "high honour" the evening is, how it shows that "Canada matters" and promises to be an "evening of awe."

U.S. President Barack Obama sees himself in Trudeau, we're told. Plus: The Washington Post even called Trudeau the "anti-Trump" (!) — high establishment praise and a moniker Trudeau later ironically embodied when he refused to dump on Trump in an interview.

We're loving the attention — the Vogue profile, Sunday's 60 Minutes interview, which Americans read as advertisement to emigrate here; not that they needed one after Googling en masse "how to move to Canada" on Super Tuesday. The U.S. coverage, though concerned with Trudeau's aesthetic, is far meatier than the usual Five Cool People You Didn't Know Were Canadian or This Hip Street In This Canadian City Is So Hip.

But coming from a nation that still assumes we're all lumberjacks, it's not really that flattering, is it? The Google-search story was roundly treated as a joke: Move to Canada!? Things really are bad! We're not an aspiration so much as a last-ditch escape hatch. They're not drawn to Canada — they're drawn to the absence of America.

In my experience, Americans generally view Canada as a proverbial backwoods, a wild terrain with rustic inhabitants.

Which is why Trudeau, in that 60 Minutes interview, admitted Canadians, "like to think that, you know, Americans will pay attention to us from time to time, too."

What lofty goals, Mr. Trudeau. Americans do like him for his poignantly familiar story: He is handsome and forthright and rose to power by being a good guy, a classic trope of American culture rarely seen in real life. But I doubt the interest will plunge much past his shiny surface to our reality.

To be clear: Neither Trudeau nor I are anti-American. Hell, he told the Huffington Post that the U.S. is "the greatest democracy in the world."

But I can like America and Americans (which I do, greatly), and even love some of them without assuming, much less requiring, their reverse-interest in the true-north-strong-and-free.

Besides, while the state dinner will be good for Trudeau, and even a little good for us, the important relationship is no longer with Obama, it's with his successor. And if that (shudder) is Donald Trump, we know who'll pick the fight.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

The Girl With the Lower Back Tattoo: Amy Schumer announces book title, due out Aug. 16

Step-by-step spicy tuna rolls

RECIPE

Throw out the takeout menu and make your own at home

The California roll may have been the first inside-out roll, but the spicy tuna roll is quickly becoming the most popular. The combination of tuna and mayonnaise is a classic in Western culture, which may help to explain the appeal of this chile-spiked version of uramaki (inside-out roll). In this recipe we demonstrate forming the roll without the use of a mat (free rolling).

When making inside-out rolls, cover your mat in plastic wrap to avoid sticking and aid cleanup.

Spicy Tuna Roll

Makes 1 roll (6 pieces)

Ingredients

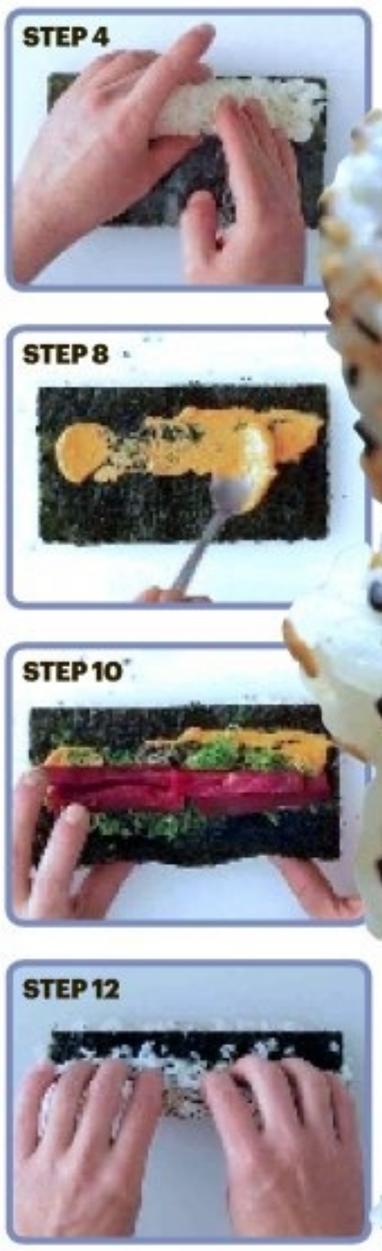
- 1/2 sheet nori (7 by 4 inches/17.5 by 10 cm) 1/2
- 1/3 cup Sushi Rice 75 ml
- Toasted sesame seeds (preferably a mix of black and white)
- 1 tsp Spicy Mayo (see recipe on right) 5 ml
- 11/2 tsp thinly sliced green onion, white 7 ml and green parts
- 2 strips tuna, cut into pieces each 2 about 3 1/4 by 1/2 by 1/2 inch (8 x 1 x 1 cm; about 2 oz/60 g)
- Pickled ginger (Gari; see recipe below)
- Wasabi paste
- Soy sauce

Equipment

- Wet towel
- Nonstick gloves, optional
- Small bowl with ice water
- Bamboo rolling mat (makisu), covered in plastic wrap
- Yanagiba, slicing knife or chef's knife

Directions

1. Place nori on board, shiny side down, with the longer side facing you.
2. Lightly wet your hands in the ice water, shaking or clapping off any excess.
3. Leaving a 1/2-inch (1 cm) border at the top of the nori, place rice on sheet, right of center.
4. Using your fingers and pressing down and toward the right, spread rice to about 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide. Repeat Step 2.
5. Using the tips of your fingers, continue to spread rice evenly over nori so remainder of nori is covered with rice, leaving 1/2 inch (0.5 cm) visible at the bottom.
6. Sprinkle sesame seeds evenly over surface of rice.
7. Using the back of a spoon, spread spicy mayonnaise across center of nori.
8. Flip nori over, rice side down, placing the uncovered edge toward you.
9. Sprinkle mayonnaise evenly with green onion.
10. Lay sliced tuna evenly over onion. Place your thumbs under the bottom of the nori (the edge closest to you).
11. With your hands cupped over the roll, gently squeeze on either side to begin to form the roll.
12. Using your fingers to hold the fillings in place and rolling away from you, roll nori over fillings.
13. Keeping pressure on the roll, continue to roll away from you until roll is sealed.
14. Using your middle and index fingers, gently tap on each end of the roll to ensure that ingredients have not slipped out and are flush with the nori.
15. Confirm roll seam side down (this will help ensure that the roll will not burst open when handled).
16. Place mat over roll.
17. With your thumbs on the side toward you, pinkies on the far side and other fingers cupped over the top, give the roll a light squeeze, forming a squared cylinder.
18. Remove mat and slice roll.
19. Arrange cut pieces upright on a serving plate. Garnish with wasabi, ginger and a small dipping bowl of soy sauce.



If you prefer, you can chop up the fish or cut into cubes and combine it with the spicy mayonnaise. CONTRIBUTED

SUBSTITUTION
Don't like tuna? You can sub salmon, yellowtail, scallops or white fish.

RECIPE

Spicy Mayo

Makes 1 1/4 cups (300 ml)

Ingredients

- 1 cup mayonnaise (see Tips below) 250 ml
- 3 Tbsp chile paste (see Tips) 45 ml
- 1 tsp Japanese toasted sesame oil 5 ml
- 1 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice 5 ml
- Japanese chili flakes, such as ichimi or shichimi, optional

Directions

1. In a bowl, whisk together mayonnaise, chile paste, sesame oil and lemon juice, until combined. Add chili flakes to taste (if using). Use immediately or transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate for up to 1 month.

Tips

- Use your favorite mayonnaise — Kewpie, Hellman's or even homemade. If you are using Kewpie mayonnaise, make sure you are not serving it to anyone with a sensitivity to MSG.
- Any Asian hot sauce or chile paste, such as Sriracha, sambal oelek, tobanjan or kochujang, works well in this recipe.
- If you are heat sensitive, use less chile paste. If you are a heat seeker, increase the quantity or add the chili flakes.

SUSHI GINGER GARI

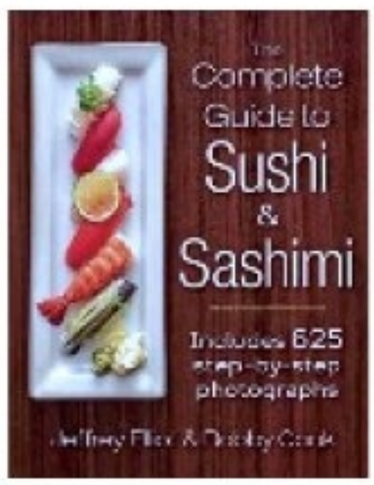
Makes: about 2 cups (500 ml)

Ingredients

- 2 x 5-inch (12.5 cm) long pieces 2
- gingerroot (about 14 oz/425 g), peeled and washed
- Water
- Salt
- 1 cup Japanese rice vinegar 250 ml
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar 175 ml

Directions

1. On a cutting board, using a chef's knife or usuba, cut ginger into very thin slices. (If you prefer, use a mandoline or peeler instead.)
2. In a large pot of boiling salted water, blanch ginger slices for 30 seconds. Drain and transfer to jar.
3. In a small saucepan, bring vinegar, 1 cup (250 ml) water, sugar and 1 tsp (5 ml) salt to a boil, stirring until the sugar is dissolved.
4. Pour over ginger, then tighten lid. Allow to cool to room temperature. Transfer to refrigerator and let marinate for at least 3 days (see Tips). Pickled ginger will keep in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to a year.



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LEAP INTO SPRING WITH A CITRUSY SALAD AND BRAISED RABBIT

Brighten your meals with these dishes that will transport you into the season ahead

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mint, beet and fennel salad with chili-citrus vinaigrette

For the vinaigrette
Makes 1/2 cup dressing.

Beets and fennel are wintertime favourites when drizzled with olive oil and roasted to perfection in the oven. You can find fennel year-round, but it's at its best during colder months so consider this a farewell to fennel.

The addition of fresh mint leaves serves as a teaser to all the tasty things about to sprout from the ground while beets remind you of what's still growing beneath it.

Ingredients
- Juice of 1/2 large orange
- Zest of 1 large orange
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp white wine vinegar
- 1/4 tsp dried chili flakes
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Directions
1. Whisk together all ingredients in a bowl. Serve immediately or refrigerate in an airtight container for up to a week.

For the salad
Makes 4 servings.

Ingredients
- 6-8 small beets, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 large fennel bulb, washed and thinly sliced
- 1/2 large orange, peel removed and cut into bite-sized segments
- 1/3 cup fresh mint leaves
- 1/2 cup chili-citrus vinaigrette
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Chili flakes, to taste

Directions
1. Toss beets, fennel, orange segments and mint in large mixing bowl. Pour in vinaigrette and toss to coat evenly. Add salt, pepper and chili flakes to taste.
2. Transfer to serving bowl. Let marinate for 10 minutes before serving.

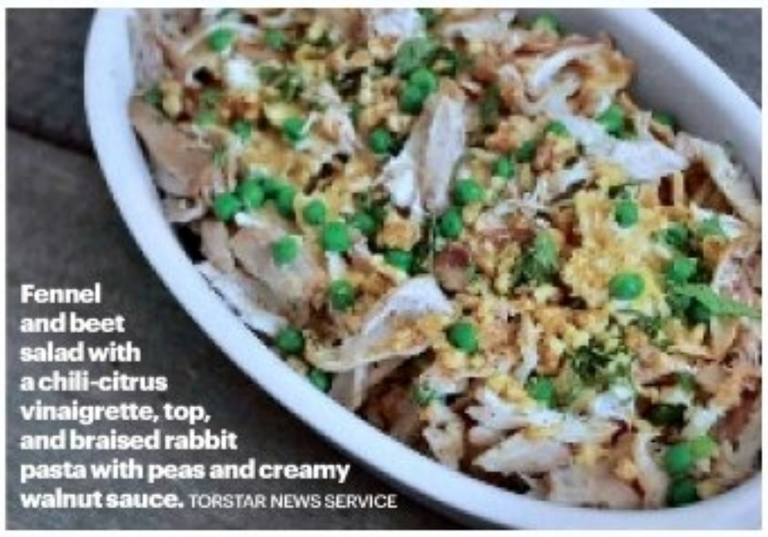
Braised rabbit with bow tie pasta, peas and creamy walnut sauce

Makes 4 servings.

It might sound morbid to cook rabbit during the month of Easter, but once you've had sweet and tender rabbit meat you'll understand why Elmer Fudd spent all those years hunting that single creature. Here, the mascot of springtime is slow-cooked, tossed in a light but creamy walnut sauce and dressed with vibrant green peas. Have the butcher take the rabbit apart for you. If you are averse to cooking wascally wabbit, substitute four whole bone-in chicken legs with the skin removed.

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 3-lb whole rabbit, head and ribs removed, legs and saddle separated
- 2 cups no-salt-added chicken broth
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1 cup crushed walnuts, plus more for garnish
- 3 minced garlic cloves
- 2 1/2 cups dried bow tie pasta
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Chopped mint leaves, for garnish

Directions
1. In a large pan, heat oil over medium heat. Sear rabbit until golden brown on all sides. Season with salt and pepper. Turn heat down to low. Add chicken broth. Cover and let cook on gentle simmer for 1 hour, or until meat is cooked and fork tender.
2. Remove rabbit from pan. Shred meat using two forks. Discard bones. Set meat aside.
3. Transfer remaining broth to blender. Add milk, walnuts and garlic. Blend until everything has emulsified. Set aside.
4. Bring large pot of salted water to roaring boil over medium-high heat. Cook pasta according to box instructions or until al dente. Remove pasta to bowl with slotted spoon.
5. Bring water back to a roaring boil in same pot. Add frozen peas and cook for 1 minute, or until peas are defrosted. Drain and rinse peas under cold water.
6. In a large skillet over medium heat, toss cooked pasta, peas, walnut sauce and rabbit meat together. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Transfer to serving bowl. Garnish with more crushed walnuts and mint, if using.
7. Serve immediately.



Fennel and beet salad with a chili-citrus vinaigrette, top, and braised rabbit pasta with peas and creamy walnut sauce. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Try a light and lemony dessert

RECIPE

Cottage cheese cake is a riff on an Italian ricotta classic

Cottage cheese is more than just a snack; it's also a handy and nutritious ingredient. Simply spoon the cottage cheese straight from the carton and use or, for extra points, drain or blot the excess moisture from the cottage cheese and pulse in the food processor and you'll have almost exactly the texture of ricotta cheese.

A favourite ricotta indulgence is Italian ricotta cake, which is something between a classic cake and a cheesecake. Sweet and fatty, a little sliver goes a long way. Here is a cottage cheese makeover of this yummy (calorie-dense) treat. Loads of lemon zest keep it exciting, and the almond flour ensures that the fats are healthy (and offer a smidge of protein and nutrients).

Lemon Cottage Cheese Cake

Start to finish: 1 hour
Servings: 12

Ingredients

- 3 eggs, separated
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 1/4 cup grated lemon zest (2 to 3 lemons)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup almond flour or meal
- 1 1/4 cups whole-wheat pastry flour (or all-purpose flour)
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 cup low-fat milk
- Powdered sugar, to serve (optional)
- Raspberries and chopped fresh mint, to serve (optional)

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Coat a 9-inch round cake pan with cooking spray, then line with kitchen parchment.
2. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to whip the egg whites to stiff peaks. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl, use the mixer to beat together the butter and sugar for 1 minute. Add the egg yolks and mix again until creamy and pale, about 2 minutes. Add the cottage cheese, lemon zest and vanilla, then mix on medium until very well blended and the cottage cheese is broken down a little.
4. In a medium bowl, sift together the almond flour, pastry flour, cinnamon, baking powder and salt. Mix half of the dry ingredients into the butter and egg mixture and mix on low with the mixer. Add the milk and the remaining dry ingredients, then mix on low to blend. Using a rubber spatula, fold in half of the whipped egg whites rather briskly until well mixed into the batter. Fold in the second half of the egg whites very gently, until blended in, but not deflated.
5. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake on the oven's middle shelf until the cake is golden and springs back under light pressure, about 35 minutes. Let cool for 15 minutes before removing from the pan, then let cool completely. Once cooled, dust the top with powdered sugar and serve with raspberries and mint, if desired. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This cake swaps ricotta for cottage cheese and uses almond flour, so you can tell yourself it's healthy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LIQUID ASSETS

Take a sip of Sicily

Poised off the coastal tip of Italy's boot, Sicily looks like the mainland is about to give it a swift kick and wine lovers seem to share that sentiment. Though they offer great value and full-figured flavours, for some reason Sicilian wines can't seem to catch a break when compared with their landlocked Italian cousins. I consider Sicily Italy's true undiscovered region. Sicily has its own indigenous berries led by Grillo for whites and, on the red side, Nero d'Avola.

Barone Montalto's 2014 Nero d'Avola Cabernet Sauvignon ($9.45 -$11.99) blends Nero with a Sicilian grown mainstream grape. The result has all the dark, black expression of the local hero tempered by the Cab's massaging power.

Try with your favourite meaty pasta dish.

PETER ROCKWELL/ METRO

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ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Frozen pizza

Frozen 'za can be a quick meal in a pinch, but choose carefully!

PICK THIS

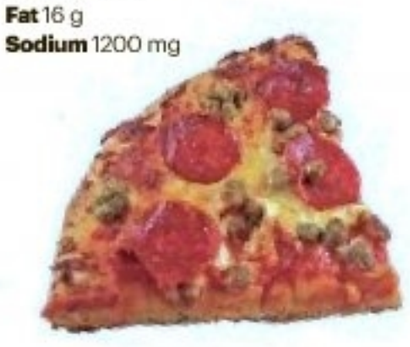
Ristorante Thin Crust Pepperoni Pizza (¼ Pizza)

Calories 220
Fat 11g
Sodium 430 mg

SKIP THIS

Delissio Rising Crust 3 Meat Pizza (¼ pizza)

Calories 500
Fat 16 g
Sodium 1200 mg



HERE'S WHY

Equivalent almost one large bag of Lays Classic Potato Chips in sodium

Cutting back on those thick crusts and meaty toppings on your pizza makes a big difference to your heart and waistline. The additional sausage and beef toppings combined with a thick crust raise the sodium to astronomical levels — half your daily quota! You can still enjoy pepperoni in moderation, but stick to a thin crust and you'll take off half the fat and over 2.5 times the sodium. A better pick any way you slice it!

NEW SERIES

Arnett all about not faking it on Flaked

Will Arnett says playing a character struggling with sobriety has been "cathartic."

The Arrested Development star took on a more sombre role with his latest venture, Flaked, a half-hour Netflix series that he admits turned out much darker than he initially envisioned.

Arnett drew on his own experiences with alcoholism for the streaming serial, which he sums up as "neither comedy nor drama in the sense that the world isn't like that. We are all things at all times."

"It's a very personal story," says Arnett, who co-created and co-wrote the project with Mark Chappell, and stars as Chip.

"Part of it is Chip's relationship with his sobriety, and really that's about his relationship with his true self — with who he is and is he being honest with himself?"

Heady stuff from the guy better known for playing dove-killing amateur illusionist Gob Bluth on Arrested Development or underhanded super-gay TV executive Devon Banks on 30 Rock.

"It's been an interesting process and it's been difficult," Arnett says of exercising more creative control for this venture, adding he plans to direct if a second season is ordered.

"I've been obsessed for a while with that idea of authenticity and initially the character of Chip was kind of like an essay on what I disliked in other people who did that — who were inauthentic with me," says the Toronto-bred comic, who has spoken of battling alcohol abuse in his 20s.

"Inevitably some of your own stuff starts making it onto the page and it becomes uncomfortable and you're kind of like forced to face things that you potentially dislike about yourself."

Flaked premieres Friday on Netflix. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Getting schooled on I Am Cait

THE SHOW: I Am Cait, Season 2, Episode 2 (E!)
THE MOMENT: The "Tranny" Debate

"Tranny" debate turns reality star Caitlyn Jenner into the foil of her own show. CONTRIBUTED

Caitlyn Jenner and half a dozen friends are travelling across the U.S. in a luxury bus. Among them are the writers Jenny Boylan and Kate Bornstein.

"I don't call myself a woman, I call myself a tranny," Kate volunteers as the miles roll by. "Transgender women have a lot of problems with that."

"I would be one of them," Jenny says. "I find that word hurtful. For me it's like saying the F-word to a gay man or the N-word to a person of colour."

I haven't seen Season 1, but as a recap points out, serious divisions exist within (and outside) the transgender community about whether the hoopla around Caitlyn has done more harm than good. So this season, the producers are doubling down on their efforts to educate America. This debate is one example.

It's fascinating to see where Caitlyn — who, as one friend points out, "spent 65 years as a Republican man," and of whom another remarks, "her inner life hasn't caught up to her outward appearance" — ends up here: as the foil of her own show.

Sure, she's one of the most recognizable transgender people in the world. But because her fame and wealth have isolated her from many of the hardships transgender people endure, she's also just one more bigoted, ignorant American who needs to be educated. On the positive side, that wipes out any notion of "us vs. them." Suddenly, everyone is "us."

That alone won't solve the varied conflicts Caitlyn kicks up. But it's an interesting start.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Mos Def appears in court

Mos Def was first turned away from court in South Africa on Tuesday for refusing to remove a turban. He later returned wearing this loose scarf. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUSIC

Rapper faces charges in S. Africa over world passport

American rapper Mos Def appeared briefly in a South African court Tuesday on charges of presenting a "world passport" when trying to fly out of the country.

The 42-year-old hip hop artist, actor and activist, whose real name is Dante Terrel Smith, was first turned away from the court because he refused to remove a turban he was wearing.

As a small group of photographers and video journalists recorded the incident, he left and returned later with a loose scarf draped over his head and shoulders, which allowed a security search.

Mos Def, who was listed on the court roll under one of his other names, Yassin Bey, was accompanied by a small group of friends into the magistrates' court in the working class suburb of Bellville in Cape Town.

He refused to speak to reporters, and waited expressionlessly among groups of glum witnesses and suspects waiting to be called for cases such as theft and assault.

Prosecutors requested a two-week postponement of the hearing and he will remain free on bail of 5,000 rand (about $300) until his next hearing on March 24. He was not required to speak.

Bey was arrested in Cape Town in January while attempting to board a flight to Ethiopia.

The Department of Home Affairs said the actor had entered South Africa with a legitimate U.S. passport in November, and had a visitor's visa valid until February. But he tried to leave using a "World Government of World Citizens" passport," which is not recognized, home affairs director general Mkuseli Apleni told reporters.

The World Government of World Citizens was established in 1953 by the late peace activist Garry Davis, an American who renounced his citizenship after World War II.

Bey faces charges including using a false identity, and "aiding and abetting his family to stay illegally in South Africa."

His family's visas expired in April 2014, and they are still subject to court proceedings. AFP

STYLE

Zara gets ungendered

Spanish fashion retailer Zara quietly launched its first foray into gender-neutral clothing last week — to mixed reviews.

Critics say Zara's line called "Ungendered" is too basic. CONTRIBUTED

Titled "Ungendered," the line primarily consists of basics like T-shirts, tanks and jeans in neutral tones like greys and beiges. While Zara garnered some praise for pushing the boundary of fashion, many took to Twitter to talk about how normative the line actually is, bringing up the lack of typically female-coded clothing for men and vice versa. Transgender writer Tyler Ford spoke out about Zara online, tweeting if the company wanted to work on gender-neutral fashion, the retailer could simply remove the gendered signs in their stores and add more sizes. REBECCA WILLIAMS/METRO

TV BRIEF

Peachy news for Orphan Black fans

Space says Canadian electronic music star Peaches will be featured in an episode of the hit sci-fi series' upcoming fourth season. The Toronto native will guest perform as herself. Space says the episode will air in the back half of the season, which begins April 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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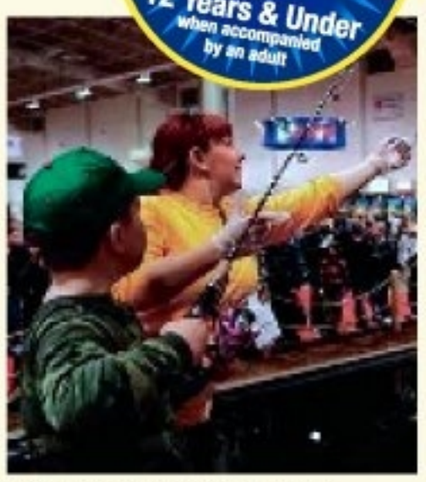

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metro DRIVE
Your essential daily news
BMW celebrates its 100th anniversary

Something for the whole family

REVIEW

Pilot delivers value pack of convenience, comfort

Mike Goetz
For Metro Canada

The previous Honda Pilot featured a squared-off and rugged SUV vibe, which didn't quite resonate with its intended target — large families with lots of kid chauffeuring on the schedule.

So for this all-new-for 2016 version, Honda re-positioned Pilot to be less masculine, and with more priority on family comfort and safety. While more rounded and sleeker, the Pilot is still one of the roomier mid-size crossovers, with a legitimate third row, and eight seats. If you don't need to carry more than seven, definitely go with second-row captain chairs, which keep siblings from encroaching on each other's terriotories, for better family harmony. They are also heatable and slide for fairly easy entry into the third row. Like all third rows, Pilot's is low to the ground, but wide and comfortable enough for three smaller humans.

Climb into the driver's seat, and you'll be impressed by the vast array of new features and excellent outward visibility, the latter helped by super thin front pillars, and big windows all around. Dominating the front space is Pilot's new standard touchscreen infotainment system. It looks good, sounds good, and is packed with solid technology, but I found it required too much brain activity to do most anything. It will have you soon running to the few "actual" buttons on the steering wheel, and voice command. More new tech that takes getting used to, is the "drive by wire" gear selector, which is packaged with the optional and all-new nine-speed automatic.

Pilot's only powerplant is the 3.5-litre V6, which has been recently endowed with lots of technology — direct injection, auto stop-start, i-VTEC, and cylinder de-activation. As such, and with the new multi-speed transmissions, the new Pilot is quite fuel efficient for its size. The engine is also super smooth. Front-wheel drive versions are available, but most potential customers will opt for AWD, and Honda has seriously upgraded Pilot's AWD system, with selectable modes (Normal, Mud, Sand and Snow), and torque vectoring.

Combined with its silky and quiet engine, and comfortable ride, the Pilot is very soothing on the road. All the modern safety features you can think of are standard — or optional. I particularly like how often Honda's Lane Watch helps you in everyday driving. Note, however, that Blind Spot and Rear Cross monitoring are only available on the top-end model.

The Pilot is not too engaging to steer. But Honda probably figures you just want to relax when you're driving your clan to their required locations, be they a soccer field, the orthodontist, or a kingdom far, far away.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 HONDA PILOT

THE BASICS

Type. Five-door, FWD or AWD, seven or eight-seat, midsize crossover
Engines (hp). 3.5-litre V6 (280)
Transmissions. Six-speed automatic, nine-speed automatic
Base price. $35,490 (not including $1,827 for PDI & Freight)

COOL FEATURES

- New standard infotainment system features Android OS.
- V6 now features direct injection, and can shut down one bank of cylinders.
- Honda Sensing safety features includes Collision Mitigation and more.

INTERIOR PHOTOS MIKE GOETZ/FOR METRO; ALL OTHERS HANDOUT

POINTS

- Seven-seat configuration features second-row captain chairs, which can be heated.
- New AWD system can adjust engine torque to various wheels, and features Normal, Mud, Sand and Snow modes.
- New satellite linked navigation system.

MARKET POSITION

- Couldn't be more targeted toward big, busy families.
- New-generation styling and technologies designed to make Pilot sleeker and more comfortable.
- One of the bigger "mid-size" crossovers.

THE COMPETITION

Hyundai Sante Fe XL
Base price: $31,099

Toyota Highlander
Base price: $33,555

Ford Flex
Base price: $31,799

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The 2016 Mercedes GLE Coupe

As a competitor to the BMW X6, the new Mercedes-Benz GLE Coupe joins the GLE wagon. With a sloped hatchback design, the GLE Coupe obviously trades cargo room for style and sportiness. It is perhaps no less capable than the GLE wagon, at least when it comes to foul-weather driving, with standard all-wheel-drive and the latest in safety technology. The GLE Coupe is, however, aimed at the performance crowd. **JEFF MELNYCHUK** WHEELBASE MEDIA

1 Engine Lineup
249-hp 3.0-litre V-6 turbo-diesel (nine-speed automatic transmission). 362-hp 3.0-litre turbocharged V-6 (nine-speed automatic transmission). 577-hp turbocharged 5.5-litre V-8 (seven-speed paddle-shift transmission).

2 Safety tech
Assisted steering automatically keeps the GLE Coupe in the middle of the lane, but will deactivate if you try driving hands-free. Brake assist warns if you're closing too rapidly on the vehicle in front and will apply the brakes, if necessary, to help prevent a collision.

3 Cargo/Backseat
Rear seat is best for two people. With the sloped roof, the GLE a bit more than half of the cargo room behind the rear seats as the GLE wagon.

4 Design
About 10 centimetres longer and eight wider than the GLE wagon.
Deeply contoured front seats are optional.
Select from Comfort, Slippery, Sport, Sport+ and Individual modes. SOURCE: MERCEDEZ-BENZ

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Nissan's 'revolution'

TEXT AND IMAGES BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

NISSAN

IDS Concept utilizes artificial intelligence

Nissan has clarified its vision of the future for autonomous and zero-emission electric vehicles in the form of the IDS Concept. New technologies coming from the automaker will do no less than revolutionize the relationship between car and driver and future mobility, promised Nissan president and CEO Carlos Ghosn. The IDS Concept integrates advanced vehicle control and safety technologies with artificial intelligence. "Nissan Intelligent Driving improves a driver's ability to see, think and react," he said, "It compensates for human error, which causes more than 90 per cent of all car accidents." Even when the driver selects Piloted Drive and turns over driving to the vehicle, the car's performance imitates the driver's own driving style and preferences, Ghosn said.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

China set to lead in EVs

China is forecast to become the world's biggest market for electric vehicles this year with sales estimated at 220,000-250,000 vehicles, says the official China news agency Xinhua, quoting the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. The Association's deputy secretary general Xu Yanhua, estimated the U.S. market at 180,000 vehicles while worldwide, EV sales are expected to increase to 600,000 units in 2016.

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Limited time lease offers available through Honda Financial Services Inc. (HFS), to qualified retail customers on approved credit. Weekly payments include freight and PDI (ranges from $1,595 to $1,695 depending on model), EHF tires & filters ($22.25), A/C charge ($100 except Fit DX models), and OMVIC fee ($10). Taxes, licence, insurance and registration are extra. ΩRepresentative weekly lease example: 2016 Civic LX Sedan 6MT (Model FC2E5GE) // 2016 CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3GE1) // 2016 Accord LX Sedan 6MT (Model CR2E3GE) // 2016 Fit DX 6MT (Model GK5G3GE) on a 60-month term with 260 weekly payments at 2.99% // 1.99% // 3.99% // 2.99% lease APR. Weekly payment is $56.87 // $71.82 // $72.68 // $43.73 with $0 down or equivalent trade-in and $210 // $280 // $530 // $465 total lease incentive included. Down payments, $0 security deposit and first weekly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $14,785.43 // $18,674.48 // $18,896.46 // $11,666.34. 120,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. PPSA lien registration fee of $45.93 and lien registering agent's fee of $5.65, due at time of delivery are not included. For all offers: licence, insurance, other taxes (including HST) and excess wear and tear are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Colour availability may vary by dealer. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. **Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2015. *Only available on 2016 Civic EX-T and Touring Sedan models. ‡Horsepower and torque calculations reflect SAE net, Rev. 08/04, SAE J1349 procedures.

metro SPORTS

The Canadian women's soccer team will host Brazil for two friendlies ahead of the Rio Olympics — June 4 in Toronto and June 7 in Ottawa

NBA

Raptors rally in 2nd half

DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points while Kyle Lowry had 23 points and nine assists to lead the Toronto Raptors to a 104-99 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Tuesday.

Terrence Ross and Patrick Patterson were solid off the bench, scoring 11 points apiece, while Bismack Biyombo had a team-high 10 rebounds for Toronto (42-20).

Brook Lopez scored 35 points to top the struggling Nets (18-46).

The Raptors now sit two games back of Eastern Conference-leading Cleveland (44-18).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DeMar DeRozan slams home two of his team-high 25 points on Tuesday night at Air Canada Centre. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Wolfsburg reaches quarters

Andre Schurrle scored to send Wolfsburg to the quarter-finals of the Champions League for the first time on Tuesday with a 1-0 win at home over Belgian champion Gent.

Julian Draxler easily skipped past a defender and crossed for his fellow Germany international to seal Wolfsburg's 4-2 aggregate victory in the 74th minute.

Both sides were playing in the Round of 16 for the first time, and Wolfsburg is just the seventh team to have progressed at the first attempt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid polishes off Roma

Cristiano Ronaldo and James Rodriguez scored second-half goals to help Real Madrid defeat Roma 2-0 and advance to the Champions League quarter-finals for the sixth consecutive season on Tuesday.

Ronaldo scored his 13th goal in the competition this season by turning home a cross by substitute forward Lucas Vazquez in the 64th and Rodriguez added to the lead four minutes later with a low shot from inside the area to give Madrid a 4-0 aggregate victory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jays take pride in strength up middle

MLB

Special bond forms between Goins, Tulo, Martin, Pillar

They are not inseparable, but Blue Jays second baseman Ryan Goins is usually within whispering range of shortstop Troy Tulowitzki in the clubhouse.

The two are a league-leading double play combo since Tulowitzki arrived last July and formed a unique bond as baseball soul mates.

"Our team is full of household names ... it elevates your own game, makes you play to their standards," Goins said Tuesday, after the Jays improved to 6-1 in spring training with a 9-3 win over the Minnesota Twins.

Tulowitzki, who brings veteran leadership to the Jays, created a slogan to acknowledge the league-leading status of its middle defence of catcher, shortstop, second baseman and centre-fielder.

"Strong up the Middle" is a badge of honour among the foursome. Catcher Russell Martin, centre-fielder Kevin Pillar and Tulowitzki and Goins established themselves as the best up-the-middle defence in the American League during Toronto's charge to the post-season last season.

Now, the phrase is spoken between them like a handshake. It also reaffirms not only the status of the foursome on the diamond but the bond they share off it as friends.

"Strong up the middle ... Tulo came up with that, and it was something we obviously believed in, being strong up the middle for the whole season," Goins said.

Behind that phrase is a resulting bond that sees the players share commitment, laughs, dinners, and even a trip to the barber.

On the field, the foursome owned the best combined stats for defensive runs saved by a player last season. For this coming season, many predict the foursome will be baseball's best in defensive runs above average.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Blue Jays shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, middle, and second baseman Ryan Goins turn a double play against the Orioles' Daniel Alvarez on Friday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"As good as our offence had been, we never took off until our defence improved.**
> Manager John Gibbons

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3	2	7	5	8	6	4	1	9
8	5	3	7	9	1	2	6	4
6	1	4	8	5	2	7	9	3
2	7	9	3	6	4	1	8	5
7	8	5	6	2	3	9	4	1
4	3	1	9	7	8	6	5	2
9	6	2	1	4	5	8	3	7

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No time to wait in wings

MAPLE LEAFS

Nylander thrown into fire at centre due to injuries

William Nylander wouldn't be playing centre in the NHL right now if the Toronto Maple Leafs head coach had his way.

Rather, the 19-year-old would be lining up on the wing as other top young centres do in their early days in the league, such as Red Wings rookie Dylan Larkin and Sabres rookie Sam Reinhart presently. But because of injuries at the position Mike Babcock doesn't really have much of a choice currently with one of the team's top prospects.

45

The number, in percentage, of faceoffs Nylander has won.

"Who would play in the middle?" Babcock said of moving Nylander to the wing after a Tuesday afternoon practice. "That was my plan and I had this great plan and it looked good on a napkin. That was what I was going to do with him for sure because it's way easier.

"This is a different situation," he added. "We don't have centres."

The Leafs are missing Tyler Bozak to an upper-body injury that's kept him out more than a month and Byron Froese to a broken hand. Insert both into the lineup alongside Nazem Kadri and Peter Holland and Nylander would likely be playing wing right now instead of centre where he's had some predictable struggles.

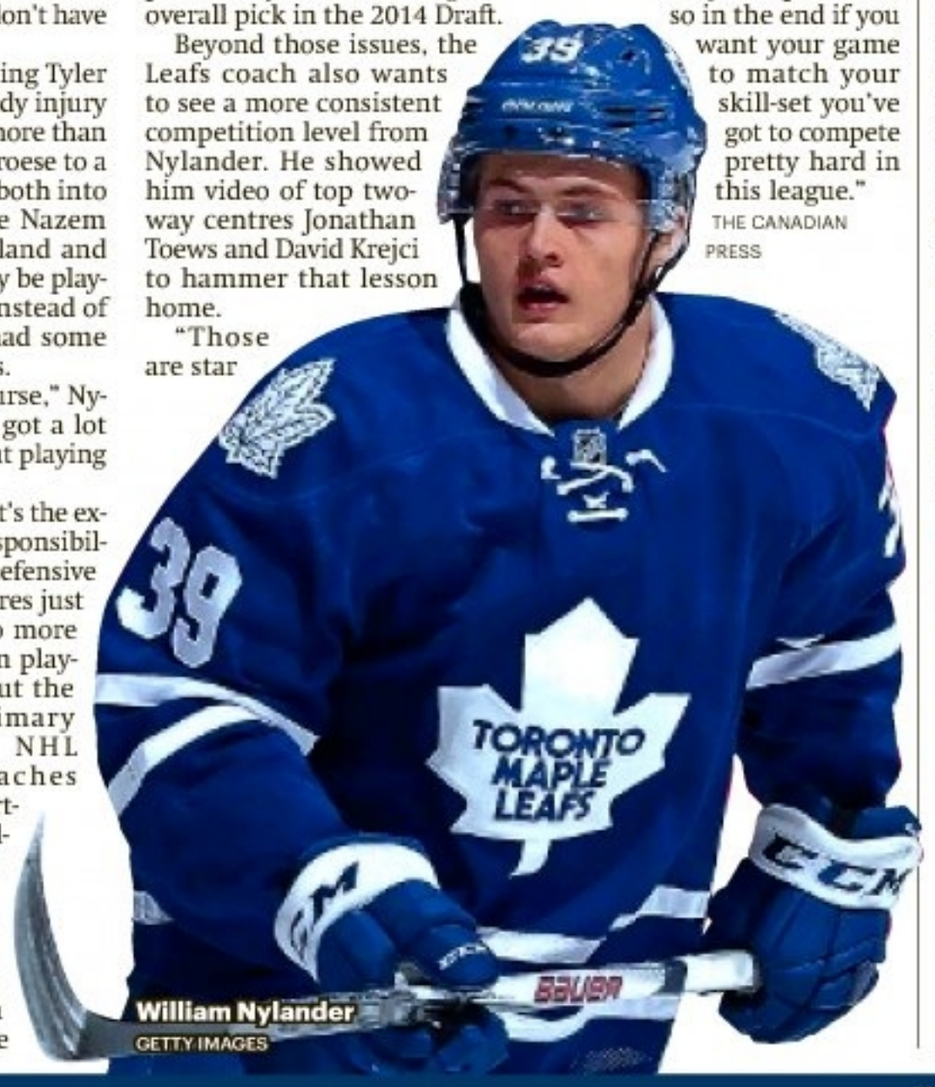
"It's a jump, of course," Nylander said. "You've got a lot of stuff to worry about playing centre."

Mostly, it's the expanded responsibility in the defensive zone. Centres just need to do more work when playing without the puck, primary in why NHL head coaches prefer starting their youngest talents at wing where the duties are less.

Babcock was already looking ahead to the Leafs matchup with the Islanders on Wednesday and the challenges at centre ice they'll present Nylander, the eighth overall pick in the 2014 Draft.

Beyond those issues, the Leafs coach also wants to see a more consistent competition level from Nylander. He showed him video of top two-way centres Jonathan Toews and David Krejci to hammer that lesson home.

"Those are star players," Babcock said. "That's how hard they compete. And so in the end if you want your game to match your skill-set you've got to compete pretty hard in this league." THE CANADIAN PRESS



William Nylander
GETTY IMAGES

TENNIS

Sponsors shy away from Sharapova

Maria Sharapova, the world's highest-earning female athlete for many years, was abandoned Tuesday by some of her biggest sponsors after the Russian tennis star acknowledged taking a recently banned substance for a decade.

$36M

Sharapova has more than $36 million in career prize winnings.

Sportswear giant Nike, Swiss watch brand Tag Heuer and German luxury car company Porsche quickly distanced themselves from the five-time Grand Slam winner after she announced Monday that she failed a drug test for meldonium at the Australian Open in January, days after the substance was banned.

Industry veterans were surprised by how quickly these companies backed away from such a bankable performer. Sharapova earned an estimated $29.5 million last year alone, the vast majority off the court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Jacobs perfect through first five matches at Brier

Northern Ontario's Brad Jacobs remained unbeaten at the Tim Hortons Brier through his fifth match Tuesday morning.

The reigning Olympic champion defeated Prince Edward Island's Adam Casey 6-2. Jacobs was slated to meet Alberta's Kevin Koe in the evening draw. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bills re-sign guard Incognito

Despite fielding offers from other NFL teams, guard Richie Incognito elected to stay in Buffalo and repay the Bills for giving him a second chance at football.

Incognito acknowledged he accepted a little less money in forgoing free agency and agreeing to a three-year, $15-million contract with Buffalo on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Fresh Tomato Spaghetti

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This is one of those too-good-to-be-true recipes. It's just a few ingredients and a very small time commitment and yet you'll create a delicious, satisfying dinner.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 500 g package of whole-wheat spaghetti
- 3 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 cups fresh tomatoes, washed and chopped
- 1 head of arugula, washed and rough chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. Put a big pot of well salted water on to boil.
2. In a sauté pan, bring the olive oil to low-medium heat.
3. Add minced garlic and allow to cook but not brown. You're just taking the bite out of it so it's only going to take a couple of minutes. Take the pan off the heat.
4. Cook pasta according to package instructions. Scoop out a cup of water from the pot before draining (this is a good habit to get into, btw). The starchy water is a great way to loosen up a too-thick sauce, plus it adds a certain slickness to your pastas.
5. Drain your noodles well before tossing them back in the pot. Add the garlic-infused oil and vinegar and toss well until all of the spaghetti is well coated. Now add your tomatoes and toss again. Pour in your cooking liquid, bit by bit, until your sauce is the desired consistency (you may not need much).
6. Throw in the arugula and give it another good mix so there are pieces of green throughout. Taste before adding a bit of salt and pepper.

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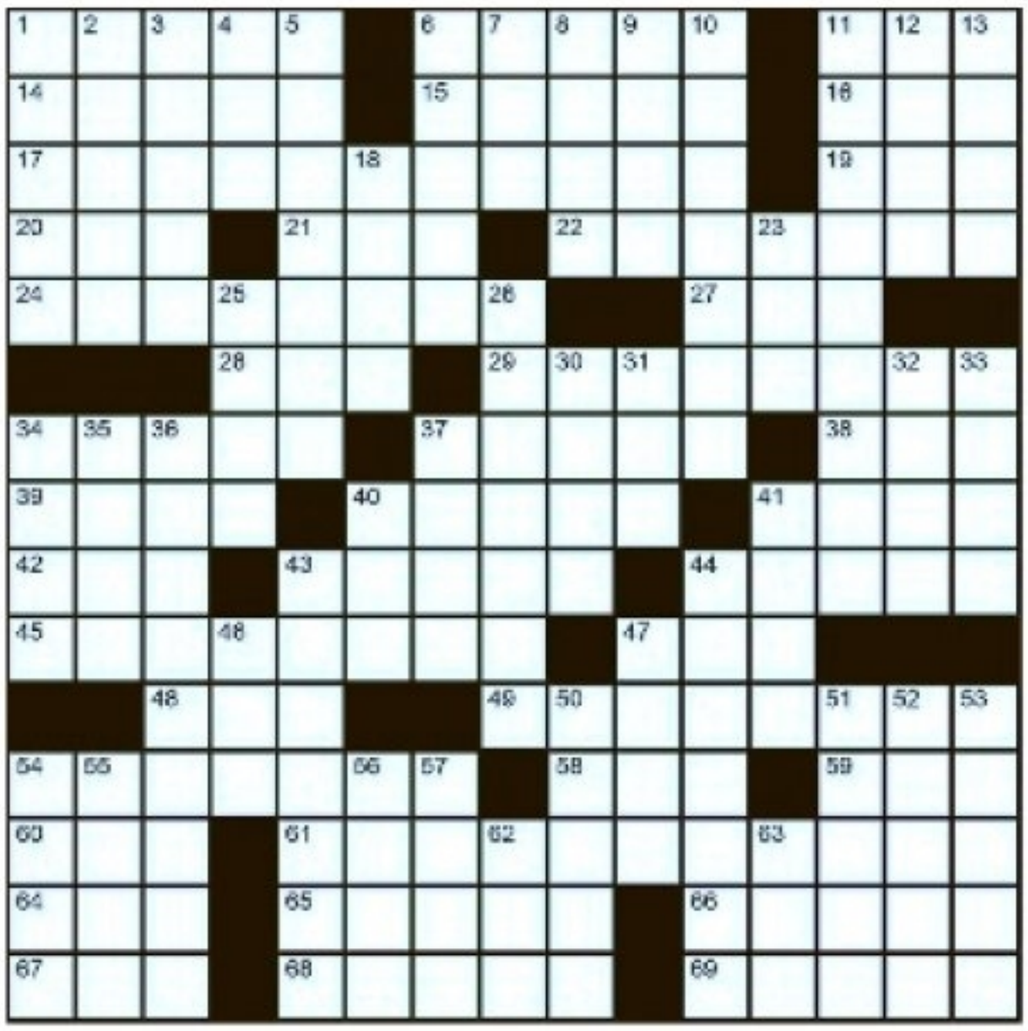
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



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1. Reprimand
6. Calm
11. Sched. time not yet figured out
14. Electroshock-er
15. "A Passage to _" (1984)
16. Ingrid Bergman's actress/model daughter ...her initials-sharers
17. Archaeologist's major discovery in Egypt: 2 wds.
19. Miracle-_ (Plant food brand)
20. U.S. health-related agcy.
21. Lamb of God, Agnus _
22. Stand for one addressing an audience
24. Draw a _ conclusion
27. Canadian hockey great's three-lettered surname
28. Barbie and _
29. Was off target
34. Items in Dracula's closet
37. Spotted cat-like mammal
38. Vegetarian variety, with Lacto-
39. Repented
40. Sacred choral piece
41. Take _ _ face value
42. Piece of food
43. Classifies
44. St. _, Newfoundland
45. Ontario: Canadian _ Heritage Museum, in Mount Hope near Hamilton ...more at #11-Down
47. Got a glimpse
48. "..._ _ quit!" (Employee's ultimatum)
49. Striking/breath-taking
54. Material for Canada's bank notes
58. Apple pie _ _ mode
59. Prefix to 'thermal'
60. "_ Got a Feeling" by The Beatles
61. French for 'potato chips'
64. Ancient war god
65. Overthrow
66. Army academy attendee
67. Nav. rank
68. Miniscule
69. "Heaven" singer Bryan

DOWN
1. Personnel
2. _-_ attitude (It's possible!)
3. Muppet-in-a-can
4. Hawaiian vacationer's gift
5. River excavators
6. '60s-style protest
7. It'll make a blast
8. Kelly Clarkson was the first in 2002
9. Green hue
10. Scientist's work outfit: 2 wds.
11. One of #45-Across' vintage aircrafts, de Havilland _ _
12. Cold temps experiencer's reaction!
13. Bit of "Danny's Song": "...think I'm gonna have _ _."
18. Inert gas
23. Three
25. _ out a living (Survived)
26. Gave off
30. St. _ (Facial scrub brand)
31. Unit of play for Milos Raonic
32. "_ Almighty" (2007)
33. i i i toppers
34. Boast
35. Mystique
36. Resource in Alberta
37. Succotash stuff
40. New Zealand bird, once
41. Dubuque's locale
43. _-_ jeans
44. Island country where Kingston is the capital
46. Jimmy
47. Fries flavourer
50. Hoarse
51. British actress Ms. Swinton
52. "Hmmm, _ _ to remember..."
53. Tolls
54. Sandwich orderer's preference to bread
55. Metamorphoses poet
56. Celtic language
57. Casanova
62. Hallway art piece
63. Chap

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You may be dreading what is round the corner but there is no reason to worry — what you fear is mainly in your mind. Put your imagination to good use and do something creative that could also make you money.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You need to be with people who share your outlook on life, especially if it seems that others are plotting against you. Ally yourself with those whose principles are in line with your own. There's safety in numbers.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You'll get the chance to show your leadership qualities today and people will be impressed. You have everything it takes to reach the top.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
A solar eclipse in Pisces marks the start of a more productive phase but to make the most of it you have got to think clearly. For the next few days you must focus only on facts.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Money matters have been concerning but what happens today will ease your fears. If you stay calm and think logically there's nothing that can harm you, at least not financially.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Something you say today is likely to rub certain people the wrong way. Expect some kind of backlash. Most likely they will withdraw their assistance but that's OK, you are quite capable on your own.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You're having second thoughts about something that previously you were keen on. Don't make any sudden changes. Wait until Friday's Mercury-Neptune link has passed.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You rarely sell yourself short and today will be no exception. With a solar eclipse in your fellow Water sign of Pisces you honestly believe you can take on the world and win.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Why does no one seem to be taking your advice? Because they want you to mind your own business! Take the hint and back off a bit. If your advice is as good as you think it is you'll get the chance to give it again later on.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You need to get out and about more and today's solar eclipse will provide you with endless opportunities. Don't worry if people complain that you are being irresponsible. Living well is the best revenge.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You'll discover a new source of income just as you were beginning to think you might have to sell something to make ends meet. You're not as poor as you seem to think you are.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's solar eclipse in your sign makes you feel good about yourself and about the future. Ignore the nagging doubt in the back of your mind that you don't deserve it.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	6	8	4					
7				3	5	2		
	2	4						
1			2	6	8			4
						5	9	
		9	5	4				1
					7	3	6	

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Forte SX AT shown[1]

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Sorento SX Turbo AWD shown[2]

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Offer(s) available on select new 2015/2016 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery from March 1 to 31, 2016. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing and payments include delivery and destination fees up to $1,725, $5 OMVIC fee, $29 tire fee, and $100 A/C charge (where applicable). Excludes other taxes, licensing, PPSA, registration, insurance, variable dealer administration fees, fuel-fill charges up to $100, and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. *0% financing for up to 60 months plus up to $4,000 discount available on select 2015/2016 models. Discount is deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price before taxes. Maximum $4,000 (including $500 competitive bonus**) discount is offered on a new 2016 Forte Sedan LX MT (F054IG) only. Certain conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. **Representative Financing Example:** Financing offer available on approved credit (OAC), on a new 2016 Forte Sedan LX MT (F054IG) with a selling price of $17,574 is based on monthly payments of $226 for 60 months at 0% with a $0 down payment and first monthly payment due at finance inception. Offer also includes $4,000 discount (loan credit and $500 Competitive Bonus**). Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. ***Cash Purchase Price** for the new 2016 Forte Sedan LX MT (F054IG) is $12,574 and includes a cash discount of $5,000 (including $500 competitive bonus**). Dealer may sell for less. Other taxes, registration, insurance and licensing fees are excluded. Cash discounts vary by model and trim and are deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes. **$500 Competitive Bonus offer available on the retail purchase/lease of any new 2016 Forte, 2016 Sorento, 2016 Sportage, 2016 Optima and 2016 Optima Hybrid from participating dealers between March 1 to 31, 2016 upon proof of current ownership/lease of a select competitive vehicle. Competitive models include specific VW, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Hyundai, Honda, GM, Ford, Jeep, Pontiac, Suzuki, Saturn, Chrysler, Chevrolet, Subaru, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Lexus, Land Rover, Infiniti, Acura, Audi, Lincoln, Volvo and Buick vehicles. Some conditions apply. See your dealer or kia.ca for complete details. ***Representative Leasing Example:** Lease offer available on approved credit (OAC), on the 2016 Sorento LX 2.4L FWD (SR75AG)/2016 Soul LX MT (S055IG) with a selling price of $29,354/$18,954 (includes $500/$0 lease credit discount) is based on a total number of 130 bi-weekly payments of $133/$78 for 60 months at 1.9%/0.9%, with $0 security deposit, $1,950/$850 down payment and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation $17,287/$10,186 with the option to purchase at the end of the term for $11,435/$8,514. Lease has 16,000 km/yr allowance (other packages available and $0.12/km for excess kilometres). †Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2016 Sorento SX Turbo AWD (SR75JG)/2016 Forte SX AT (F074BG)/2016 Soul SX Luxury (S075BG) is $42,095/$26,695/$27,495. The Bluetooth® wordmark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. The Kia Soul/Sorento received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact multi-purpose vehicles/midsize SUVs in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 84,367 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of U.S. owners surveyed from February to May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ALG is the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, www.alg.com. Government 5-Star Safety Ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.SaferCar.gov). Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.